

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 250630Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WAS BC 7532

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3621

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OK, BG

SUBJ: BANGLADESH-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

1. DURING MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECREATRY JULY 24, HE TOLD ME THAT BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN DELEGATIONS TO RECENT ISLAMIC CONFERENCE HAD HELD LUNCHEON MEETING TO DISCUSS THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIP. DURING THIS DISCUSSION BANGALEES HAD REITERATED THEIR DESIRE FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS PROGRESS TOWARD RECONCILIATION, EMPHASIZING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS, AND PAKISTANIS REPORTEDLY HAD TAKEN MODERATELY FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE BUT HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NEED TO CLEAR POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH BHUTTO(\$ BANGLADESH WAS NOW WAITING, THE FOREIGN SECREATARY SAID, FOR PAKISTAN'S RESPONSE.

2. GENTLY SARCASTIC, FOREGN SECRETARY SAID AZIZ AHMED ACTED AS THOUGH THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAD HEARD BANGALEE IDEA OF MEETING WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS AND BANGALEES HAD HAD TO VERIFY THAT ISLAMABAD HAD RECEIVED RECENT MESSAGE (DACCAADS 3149) AGAIN PROPOSING SUCH A MEETING. PAKISTANIS CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE BUT STILL WANTED TO BE SURE WHAT BANGLADESH HAD IN MIND. THE BANGALEES HAD CONFIRMED THAT EACH SIDE
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WOULD BE FREE TO RAISE ANY MATTER IT WISHED, INDICATING

THAT IT WOULD REAISE THE REPATRIATION AND DIVISION OF ASSETS, BUT ALSO INDICATING THAY THEY WERE NTO REQUIRING IN ADVANCE THAY ANY FIXED NUMBER OF BIHARIS SHOULD BE REPATRIATED OR THAT A FIXED LEVEL OF ASSETS HAD TO BE RETURNED.

3. FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE CAME AWAY FROM THE MEETING WITH DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT, FROM PAKISTAN'S VANTAGE POINT, FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO PUT ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA IN ORDER AND THAT BANGLADESH'S PRIORITY WAS WELL BEHIND THIS. HE GAVE CREDIT TO KUWAITI AND ABU DHABI FOREIGN MINISTER FOR HELPING PAKISTANI-BANGLADESH DIALOGUE ALONG, NOTING THAT THEY HAD CONSISTENTLY PUSHED PAKISTAN IN THAT DIRECTION. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD EVEN PROPOSED THAT THE CONFERENCE FORMALLY NOTE THAT PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH WERE HOLDING A MEETING BUT THAT PAKISTAN HAD RESISTED SUCH PROCEDURE.BOSTER

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